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November 9, 1962

DENYWASHINGTON EMBASSY REPORTS RE EVENTS IN CUBA

The regime has the support of 30 per cent of the people. There are many patriotic placards, posters and rallies, but most civilians do not know where the enemy is and why they must fight. The people have been apathetic and without any vigor to overthrow the regime since April 1961. Secret police system is tight.

Castro in his speech of November 1 tried to raise the morale of the people. The mood of the populace went through three stages during the crisis: (1) a feeling of relaxation upon the announcement of U Thant's arrival; (2) delight when Castro said on November 1 that there were differences between Cuba and the Soviet Union; and (3) discouragement when Mikoyan announced Soviet support for Cuba.

Workers have been mobilized and ordered to work overtime without extra pay. In the cities, there has been emergency medical training. Patients not in serious condition were evacuated from hospitals to provide for the expected wounded. Doctors were ordered to work 24 hours a day. People were asked to give blood.

The economy is in gradual decline. There is a critical shortage of spare parts and essential food and other items. No starvation.

Unconfirmed reports of friction between old and new communists, but Castro still has the upper hand and has improved his position.

VOA is well heard by the people and is having considerable effect on them.

A/H/CHS/Summ/amb

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